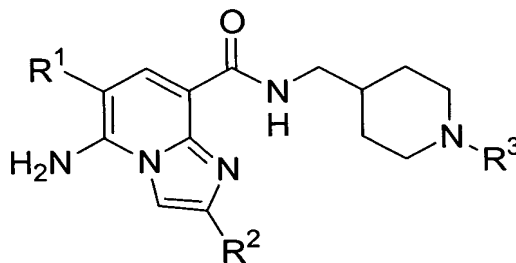


CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula (I):



5

(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;

R² represents a methyl group or an ethyl group;

10 R³ represents a branched alkyl group having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that when the terminal carbon atom of said alkyl group of R³ is substituted by said alkoxy group, said alkyl group is a branched alkyl group.

15 2. The compounds of Claim 1, wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or a chlorine atom.

3. The compounds of Claim 1, wherein R¹ represents a chlorine atom.

4. The compounds of any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein R³ represents an iso-butyl group, a tert-butylethyl group; and said alkyl group of R³ is optionally substituted by a methoxy group.

20 5. The compound of Claim 1, which is 5-amino-N-[(1-isobutylpiperidin-4-yl)methyl]-2-methylimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-8-carboxamide.

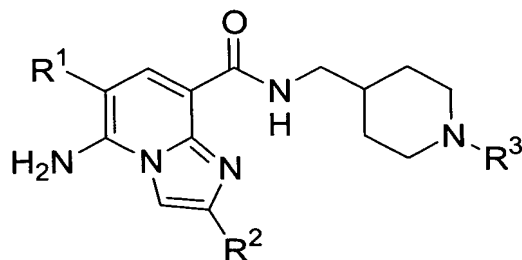
6. The compound of Claim 1, which is 5-amino-6-chloro-N-[[1-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)piperidin-4-yl]methyl]-2-ethylimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-8-carboxamide.

25 7. The compound of Claim 1, which is 5-amino-6-chloro-2-ethyl-N-[[1-(2-methoxy-2-methylpropyl)piperidin-4-yl]methyl]imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-8-carboxamide.

8. The compound of Claim 1, which is 5-amino-6-chloro-2-methyl-*N*-{[1-(2-methoxy-2-methylpropyl)piperidin-4-yl]methyl}imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine-8-carboxamide.

9. The compound of Claim 1, which is 5-amino-6-chloro-*N*-[(1-isobutylpiperidin-4-yl)methyl]-2-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine-8-carboxamide.

10. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of gastroesophageal reflux disease, gastrointestinal disease, gastric motility disorder, upper gut motility disorder, non-ulcer dyspepsia, functional dyspepsia, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation, dyspepsia, esophagitis, gastroesophageal disease, nausea, central nervous system disease, alzheimers disease, cognitive disorder, emesis, migraine, neurological disease, pain, ischaemic stroke, anxiety or cardiovascular disorder, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula (I):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;

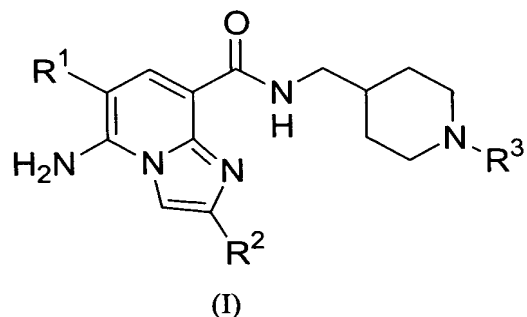
R^2 represents a methyl group or an ethyl group;

R^3 represents a branched alkyl group having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that when the terminal carbon atom of said alkyl group of R^3 is substituted by said alkoxy group, said alkyl group is a branched alkyl group.

11. A method for the treatment or prevention of disease conditions mediated by 5-HT₄ receptor activity, in a mammalian subject, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of

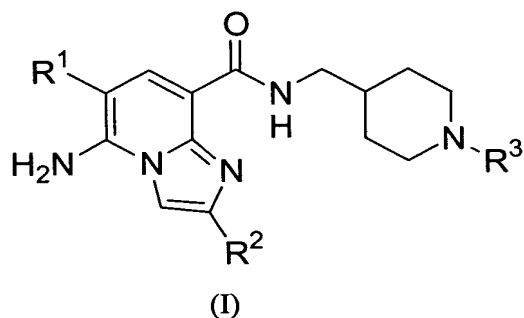
the formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

- 5 **R¹** represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;
R² represents a methyl group or an ethyl group;
R³ represents a branched alkyl group having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl group having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;
 10 with the proviso that when the terminal carbon atom of said alkyl group of **R³** is substituted by said alkoxy group, said alkyl group is a branched alkyl group.

12. A method for the treatment or prevention of gastroesophageal reflux disease, gastrointestinal disease, gastric motility disorder, upper gut motility disorder, non-ulcer dyspepsia, functional dyspepsia, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation,
 15 dyspepsia, esophagitis, gastroesophageal disease, nausea, central nervous system disease, alzheimers disease, cognitive disorder, emesis, migraine, neurological disease, pain, ischaemic stroke, anxiety or cardiovascular disorder, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;

R² represents a methyl group or an ethyl group;

R³ represents a branched alkyl group having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkyl
5 group having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms substituted by an alkoxy group having from
1 to 6 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that when the terminal carbon atom of said alkyl group of **R³** is
substituted by said alkoxy group, said alkyl group is a branched alkyl group.